



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Canberra



CATALOGUE NO. 6321.0

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 19 FEBRUARY 1988

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1987

PHONE INQUIRIES

- *about these statistics*—contact Mrs J. Gunn on Canberra (062) 52 6581 or any ABS State office.
- *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.

MAIL INQUIRIES

- *write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616* or any ABS State office.

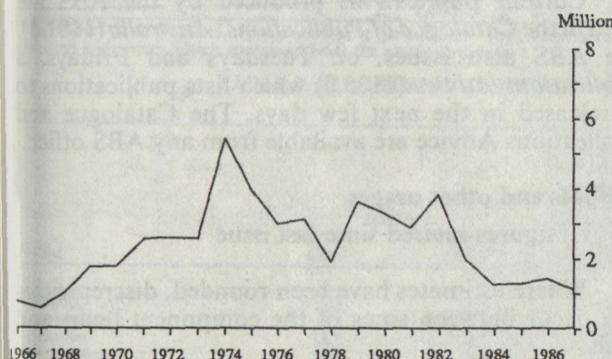
ELECTRONIC SERVICES

- **on VIATEL** — key *656#.
- **on AUSSTATS** — phone (062) 52 6017.
- **on TELESTATS** — phone (062) 52 5404.

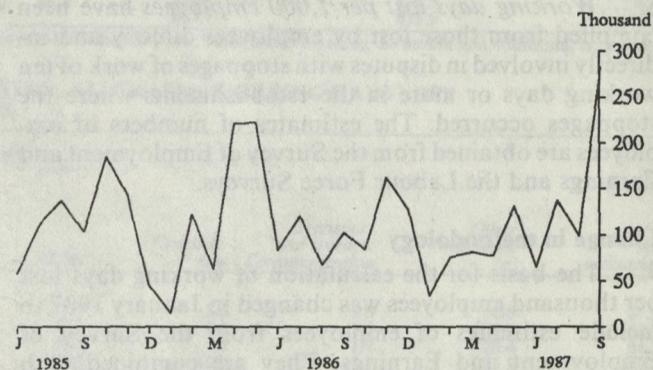
MAIN FEATURES

WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA

Year ended June



June 1985 to September 1987



There was a significant increase in the number of working days lost in September 1987 — 282,600 working days were lost by 84,900 employees in 127 disputes compared with 98,800 working days lost by 52,100 employees in 122 disputes during the August 1987. This is the highest number of working days lost since August 1982 (412,600).

Of the 282,600 working days lost in September 1987, 93,200 were lost due to a dispute in the Coal mining industry; 128,500 were lost due to a number of disputes over National Wage Case second-tier claims, (mainly in the Wholesale trade and Construction industries); and 11,000 were lost in the Community services industry.

Of the 127 disputes in September 1987, 13 had more than 1,000 working days lost.

In the 12 months ended September 1987, 1,360,800 working days were lost compared with 1,387,200 and 1,246,800 working days lost in the 12 months ended September 1986 and September 1985 respectively.

For the 12 months ended September 1987, the number of working days lost per thousand employees was highest in New South Wales (322) and lowest in South Australia (93).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The statistics relate to disputes which have occurred in all industries and involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

1. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and Government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes

and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to be a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation, otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment.

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Surveys.

Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households obtained from the Labour Force Survey to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987 the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

Labour Statistics, Australia, 1986 (6101.0)

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Trade Union Statistics, Australia 30 June 1986 (6323.0)

Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986 (6325.0)

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0)—issued quarterly

Unpublished statistics

11. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer print-out clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

13. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Electronic services

VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

TELESTATS. For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

IAN CASTLES

Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1986					
August	132	147	27.6	29.6	67.3
September	151	171	53.9	64.1	102.7
October	177	195	70.6	74.6	84.2
November	162	185	49.0	63.3	162.2
December	99	124	31.9	49.0	128.8
1987					
January	91	95	12.8	15.1	34.2
February	124	140	25.9	41.8	76.3
March	148	166	54.8	63.6	81.5
April	117	138	62.3	66.3	77.6
May	126	146	80.3	106.7	131.5
June	126	145	35.8	41.4	65.2
July	117	135	49.7	51.5	137.8
August	109	122	39.5	52.1	98.8
September	114	127	60.3	84.9	282.6
Twelve months ended—					
September 1985	1,861	1,880	624.7	627.5	1,246.8
1986	1,727	1,752	678.1	686.0	1,387.2
1987	1,510	1,528	572.8	577.3	1,360.8
December	1984	1,958	551.1	560.3	1,307.4
	1985	1,830	552.6	570.5	1,256.2
	1986	1,680	673.7	675.9	1,390.7

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST
('000)

Period	Manufacturing								
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries	
	Coal	Other							
1986									
August	5.3	31.6	7.0	11.0	3.3	2.6	6.6	67.3	
September	6.8	11.6	11.8	48.1	7.0	1.1	16.3	102.7	
October	18.8	2.7	19.1	18.4	3.2	1.7	20.4	84.2	
November	20.1	8.3	19.4	25.5	10.0	0.8	78.2	162.2	
December	12.7	11.5	4.5	13.7	8.7	1.1	76.7	128.8	
1987									
January	1.0	13.5	3.8	2.7	6.8	3.1	3.3	34.2	
February	30.8	2.4	5.4	17.5	8.0	2.2	10.0	76.3	
March	6.7	4.0	20.8	12.2	26.2	5.1	6.5	81.5	
April	15.2	3.7	27.3	10.2	7.9	5.9	7.5	77.6	
May	30.1	1.8	39.5	25.7	19.5	5.7	9.1	131.5	
June	7.3	4.7	12.4	15.1	15.0	3.0	7.7	65.2	
July	35.3	10.3	23.9	14.8	43.0	2.2	8.4	137.8	
August	17.7	6.0	14.2	21.7	11.7	3.6	23.7	98.8	
September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	4.5	108.9	282.6	
Twelve months ended—									
September 1985	234.8	90.9	152.7	203.0	191.0	134.6	239.8	1,246.8	
1986	352.1	197.2	158.1	187.2	119.5	143.7	229.5	1,387.2	
1987	293.7	71.6	213.4	184.4	198.5	38.9	360.4	1,360.8	
December	1984	131.1	193.2	144.8	249.3	116.3	150.6	322.1	1,307.4
	1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2
	1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST
('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)	
1986								
August	12.6	11.8	7.4	2.9	31.7	0.6	67.3	
September	33.6	29.5	18.9	3.1	13.4	1.5	102.7	
October	37.7	27.9	6.0	2.1	7.3	1.7	84.2	
November	45.2	81.1	16.5	4.1	11.1	3.2	162.2	
December	19.4	86.4	5.3	3.4	13.4	0.8	128.8	
1987								
January	12.7	3.5	1.3	0.6	14.4	0.4	34.2	
February	44.6	19.6	2.8	0.3	4.2	0.3	76.3	
March	41.2	20.9	2.4	2.2	11.3	1.3	81.5	
April	52.6	11.0	3.4	1.5	3.9	2.1	77.6	
May	84.2	27.6	7.7	5.5	2.9	2.6	131.5	
June	19.1	16.8	12.4	5.1	7.8	1.3	65.2	
July	81.6	25.6	7.7	9.9	3.3	7.8	137.8	
August	22.1	50.3	4.1	5.2	14.7	2.1	98.8	
September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	2.1	282.6	
Twelve months ended—								
September 1985	489.1	229.8	345.2	24.6	104.9	26.5	1,246.8	
1986	593.3	377.3	186.2	42.1	134.0	27.0	1,387.2	
1987	646.3	410.9	79.1	45.2	131.9	25.6	1,360.8	
December	1984	660.6	187.5	236.5	25.5	119.2	50.5	1,307.4
	1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
	1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES^(a)

Period	Manufacturing								All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)			
	Coal	Other								
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248		
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228		
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>										
1985	6,947	1,669	365	336	732	324	65	229		
1986	11,038	3,454	374	244	561	345	58	244		
September	10,479	3,553	371	302	466	336	59	243		
October	10,561	3,562	407	296	439	276	38	225		
November	10,950	3,143	441	312	437	143	55	228		
December	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242		
<i>1987</i>										
January	10,758	3,600	451	330	467	135	72	245		
February	9,168	3,567	456	353	477	131	70	237		
March	8,904	3,589	478	356	566	124	70	240		
April	4,881	3,238	526	353	580	127	67	215		
May	5,103	2,890	424	363	453	113	65	199		
June	5,128	2,415	432	365	476	98	65	195		
July	5,761	2,012	474	336	614	81	63	198		
August	6,194	1,515	490	351	641	84	68	204		
September	9,150	1,344	519	286	765	92	91	235		

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

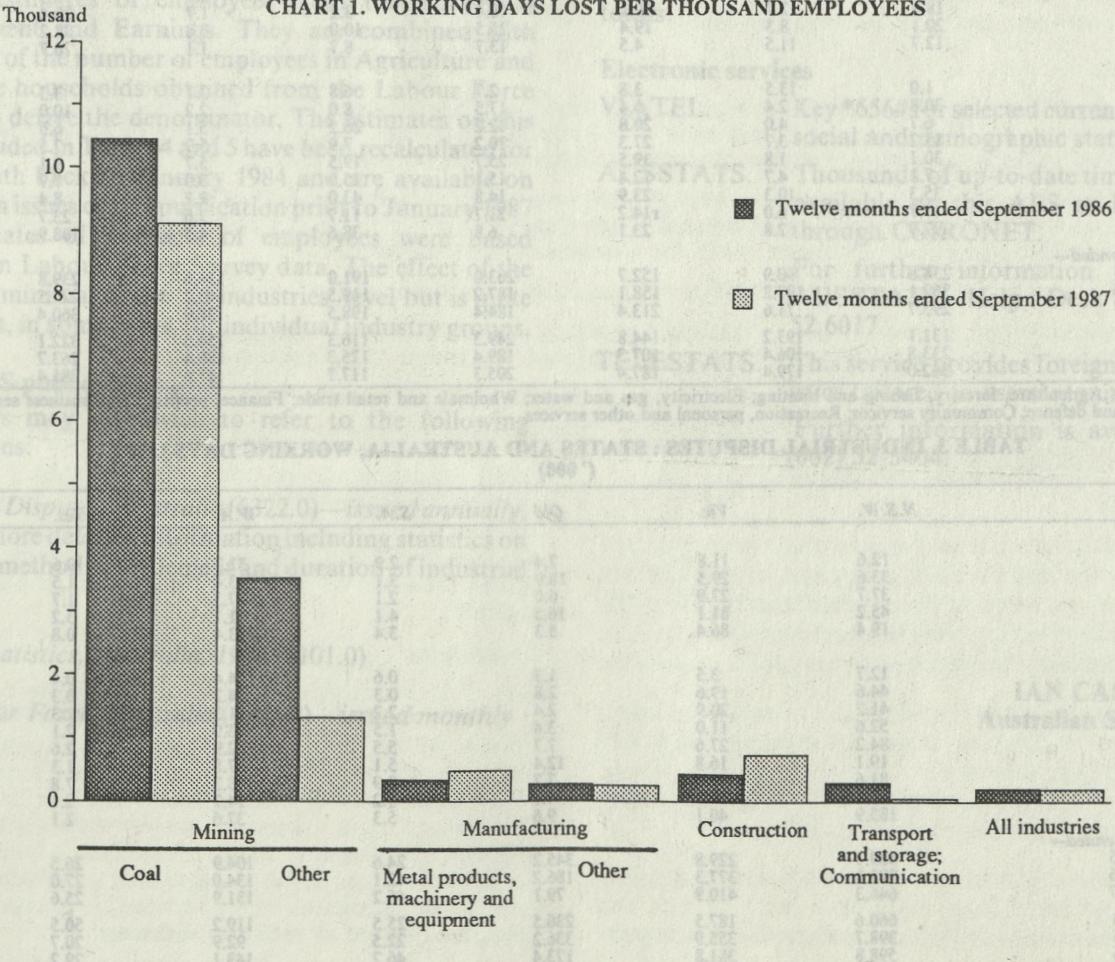
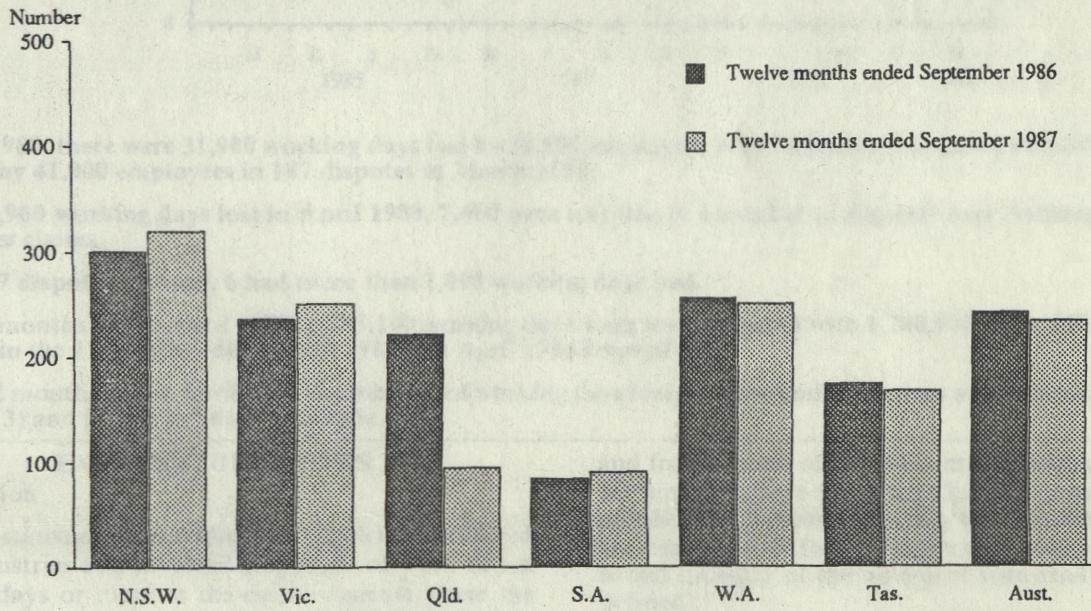


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Category	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1984		357	132	302	55	256	350	248
1985		209	236	411	47	187	138	228
1986		304	240	207	95	272	190	242
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
1985	September	260	154	426	52	215	179	229
1986	August	305	226	259	86	245	171	244
	September	303	239	223	87	257	176	243
	October	299	180	221	85	256	179	225
	November	306	191	206	92	253	194	228
	December	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
1987	January	307	239	208	95	295	186	245
	February	288	247	187	92	291	176	237
	March	290	252	186	91	303	179	240
	April	255	246	121	91	271	190	215
	May	251	220	114	61	241	161	199
	June	232	222	125	70	249	118	195
	July r	242	222	112	83	238	154	198
	August r	247	247	108	89	206	164	204
	September	322	253	97	93	252	169	235

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES



The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes.